(1) The number of members to be increased to 21 with a non-official majority of 11 made up of

(*a*) five from each of the five Revenue Divisions,

(*b*) three from each of the electorates of the Merchants, the Jenmis and the Planters, and

(*c*) three to represent minor interests.

Of these the members from the Revenue Divisions should be elected on a statutory basis.

(2) The Council should have the power to discuss the State Budget and the non-official Members should be allowed to interpellate the Government on matters of administration and submit resolutions on measures of public utility.

The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should also be reformed on the following lines :—

(*a*) The present tax-limit of Rs. 50 for membership in the Assembly should be relaxed in favour of families and communities following the system of partition.

(*b*) There should be two sessions of the Assembly—one during the Birth-day week of His Highness the Maha Raja and the other as at present.

(*c*) The election of Members should take place once in three years.

(*d*) The representations of Members should be divided into two classes. Under the first class should be included all subjects which could be disposed of only after discussion and deliberation, while the second class of subjects should be such as could be decided at the Assembly. There should be a Committee composed of the Heads of Departments concerned and the Members to discuss and deliberate upon the first class of subjects and the Committee should, after the discussion of such subjects, be asked to submit a report. The President on receipt of such report should come to a decision and give a final reply to the representative. The second class of subjects should be disposed of by the President at the Assembly, the Members being given an opportunity to exchange views with the Departmental Heads concerned before the reply was given by the President. The present system of disposing of the Members' representations by G. O's. without consulting the Members should be changed.

(*e*) The plan of the President's opening address to the Members of the Assembly should be changed. It should contain a forecast of administrative measures to be taken and also a statement showing how the previous year's representations were disposed of.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) Town Improvement Committees.

99. Reform and extension of local self-Government.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said at the outset that the work of the Town Improvement Committees during the past 25 years had been satisfactory and that the capacity of the people for public work, their public spirit, etc., had been testified to by successive Dewans. The constitution of the Municipal bodies contemplated in the Municipal Bill should be made on a ten-rupee tax basis and the President should always be a non-official. The duties of such bodies should be administration of justice—both civil and criminal—(up to a certain limit) in its primitive form, the management of primary education, management of Devaswoms, certain public works affecting the locality including irrigation and

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agricultural improvements, sanitation, etc. There should be Standing Committees for the various items of work mentioned above.

In regard to the administration of justice, there was already the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation. But the defect was that the few Courts were in the towns. The aim of Government should be to open such Courts in rural areas, the members being elected. Some powers of criminal jurisdiction might be given to the courts as also the power to try juvenile offenders. Though there was a Reformatory, the full benefit of it was not being reaped. The establishment of Juvenile Courts would be an improvement and would complete the scheme of reclamation contemplated by the Reformatory School.

The Devaswoms in the land were once the property of the people, and, with their confiscation by Col. Munro, they became Government institutions. Their management was miserable and the attention of Government had been drawn to the mismanagement of the Devaswoms several times. The only way to remedy the evil would be to place at least the minor Devaswoms under the supervision of Municipal bodies.

The allotment of funds for the P. W. D. was a subject of comment at every session of the Assembly. If at least petty works in each locality could be entrusted to local bodies, it would be a distinct advance in the direction of self-government.

The cry of the people's representatives both in the Legislative Council and in the Popular Assembly for some years past had been to make primary education compulsory and the endeavours made by non-official gentlemen at the Council failed more than once. It was high time to make provision for the introduction of compulsory primary education in areas in which the people were prepared for it.

[In the course of his representation, the Dewan more than once reminded the Member of his having exceeded the time-limit and of the necessity of curtailing his remarks. The Member having, nevertheless, taken considerably more time, the Dewan had to ask him to stop at this stage. The representation of the Member was noted.]

100. Suggestions for improving the health of the town.

Mr. N. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) said that some of the duties described in the Municipal Bill as discretionary (*vide* Section 60, clauses *b* and *c*) should be made obligatory on the part of the Municipalities. The scarcity of pure water had been felt in most of the towns such as Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Alleppey, &c., and until a good and never failing supply of pure water was guaranteed, the health of the people in the towns would not improve and would continue to be the prime cause of the ruin of civic health. Another serious want of the towns was recreation grounds. The congestion in towns and the unhealthy quarters of most people were a constant source of danger. There was no kind of control over the food and drink sold in Municipal areas with results dangerous to the public. Juvenile health was deteriorating and children in schools were subject to avoidable diseases of several kinds. A periodical examination and inspection of school-children would yield very profitable results. It was desirable to provide for public bathing ghats in localities where such arrangements could be made. Lepers and other people suffering from contagious diseases should be prevented from spreading their contagion. In conclusion, the Member submitted that a proper system of supplying good water, an effective sewage and drainage system, opening up of narrow roads and streets and the establishment of parks and recreation grounds were some of the measures necessary for safeguarding the health of the people in towns.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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